Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A commercial package for assessing a dementing disease in a patient comprising:

   - means for determining the concentration of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1, in bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from a patient; and

   - instructions for comparing said concentration with a ~~the~~ corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from at least one control person or with an established standard of a ~~the~~ corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from at least one normal age-matched control person or from the patient at an earlier time;

wherein a reduced concentration is used to predict the onset of, diagnose, or prognosticate an Alzheimer dementing disease; and wherein a concentration that is not reduced indicates that the dementing disease is not an Alzheimer dementing disease.

3. (Currently Amended) The commercial package according to claim 23 ~~1~~ wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts.

4. (Original) The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts.

5. (Original) A commercial package according to claim 3 wherein the bodily fluid is plasma.

6. (Original) A commercial package according to claim 4 wherein the bodily fluid is plasma.

7. (Original) The commercial package according to claim 3 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the tissue is lymphocytes.

8. (Original) The commercial package according to claim 4 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the tissue is lymphocytes.

9. (Currently Amended) The commercial package according to claim 3 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 ~~mRNA~~ encoding nucleotide sequence and the tissue is lymphocytes.

10. (Currently Amended) The commercial package according to claim 4 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 ~~mRNA~~ encoding nucleotide sequence and the tissue is lymphocytes.

11. (Currently Amended) The commercial package according to claim 23 ~~1~~ wherein the dementing disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's Disease, Age-Associated Cognitive Decline, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Vascular (i.e. multi-infarct) Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Down's syndrome, normal pressure hydrocephalus, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, multisystem atrophy, head trauma, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, viral encephalitis and hypothyroidism.

12. (Original) The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein the dementing disease is selected from the group consisting of Alzheimer's Disease, Age-Associated Cognitive Decline, Progressive Supranuclear Palsy, Vascular (i.e. multi-infarct) Dementia, Lewy Body Dementia, Huntington's Disease, Down's syndrome, normal pressure hydrocephalus, corticobasal ganglionic degeneration, multisystem atrophy, head trauma, Creutzfeld-Jacob disease, viral encephalitis and hypothyroidism.

13. (Original) The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein the at least one control person is a normal age-matched person.

14. (Previously Presented) The commercial package according to claim 2 wherein the at least one control person is the patient from whom the corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in bodily fluid and non-neural tissue was obtained at an earlier time, and the commercial package is used to prognosticate a dementing disease.

15. (Withdrawn) A commercial package comprising means for determining the concentration of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1, in bodily fluid or tissue obtained from a patient, and instructions for comparing said concentration with an established standard of the corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or tissue obtained from at least one normal age-matched control person or from the patient at an earlier time.

16. (Withdrawn) The commercial package according to claim 15 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 and the bodily fluid is selected from plasma and cerebrospinal fluid and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts, or the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence and the tissue is selected from lymphocytes and fibroblasts.

17. (Withdrawn) A commercial package according to claim 16 wherein the bodily fluid is plasma.

18. (Withdrawn) The commercial package according to claim 16 wherein the means is for determining the concentration of HO-1 or HO-1 mRNA and the tissue is lymphocytes.

19. (Withdrawn) The commercial package of claim 15 wherein the corresponding bodily fluid or tissue is obtained from at least one normal age-matched control person.

20. (Withdrawn) The commercial package of claim 15 wherein the corresponding bodily fluid or tissue is obtained from the patient at an earlier time.

21. (New) The commercial package according to claim 3 wherein the HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence is mRNA.

22. (New) The commercial package according to claim 4 wherein the HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence is mRNA.

23. (New) A commercial package for assessing a dementing disease in a patient comprising:

- means for determining the concentration of heme oxygenase-1 (HO-1) and/or a nucleotide sequence encoding HO-1, in bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from a patient; and

- instructions for determining whether said concentration compared with a corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from at least one control person, or with an established standard of a corresponding concentration of HO-1 and/or an HO-1 encoding nucleotide sequence in corresponding bodily fluid or non-neural tissue obtained from at last one normal age-matched control person or from the patient at an earlier time, correlates with a prediction, diagnosis or prognostication of the dementing disease.